Please amend the title to read as follows:

IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR THE OUTPUT OF AV DATA AND THE CONTROL OF THE OUTPUT OF AV DATA TO AN EXTERNAL STORAGE DEVICE

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 13 through 19 with the following:

Next, with reference to Fig. 2, the main procedure to be executed by the image pickup apparatus ~~120~~ <u>100</u> of the embodiment will be described. A portion of the procedure shown in Fig. 2 is realized by a microcomputer of the control unit 105 which operates in accordance with a control program stored in a storage medium of the control unit 105.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 10 through 13 with the following:

Step S208: The control unit 105 makes the recording/reproducing unit 103 stop recording ~~AD~~ <u>AV</u> data, and at the same time makes the communication unit 106 stop digitally outputting AV data.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 10 through 18 with the following:

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, an image pickup apparatus comprises: recording means for recording AV data including image data and sound data; and communication means for ~~staring~~ <u>starting</u> an output of AV data to be

recorded in the recording means in response to an instruction of a record start and for stopping an output of AV data to be recorded in the recording means in response to an instruction of a record stop.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 19 through 25 with the following:

With reference to Figs. 3A to 3E, a procedure to be executed by the image pickup apparatus 100 of the embodiment will be described, ~~this~~ which procedure digitally ~~outputting~~ outputs AV data in conformity with the SD format of the 525-60 scheme (NTSC scheme) in accordance with the communication protocol in conformity with the IEC61883 standards.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 26 through page 6, line 5 with the following:

First, the communication unit 106 generates ten DIF sequences from AV data for one frame supplied from the recording/reproducing unit 103, as shown in Figs. 3A and 3B. As shown in Fig. 3C, each DIF sequence is constituted of a header section, a sub-code section, a VAUX section, and an audio & video section. Image data and sound data are stored in the audio & video section.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 4 through 12 with the following:

The recording unit 122 records AV data supplied from the communication unit 121 in the storage medium 123. The data format of AV data to be recorded in the storage medium 123 by the external storage device 120 is the same as the data format of AV data to be recorded in the storage medium 104 by the image pickup apparatus 100. In this embodiment, the storage medium 123 is a randomly accessible storage medium such as a magnetic disc, an optical disc, and a hard ~~disc~~ <u>disk</u>.